



Authored by Toni Morrison

# Individuality and Community in *Beloved*

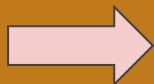
By Mary McSwain

“Nothing could be counted on in a world where even when you were a solution you were a problem” (302).

In the world of *Beloved*, Morrison reveals that, when taken to its extreme, individualism often leads to selfish and even cruel behaviors that ultimately damage society at large and even the individual..



- ❑ *Beloved* is the narrative of a former slave, Sethe, who is both literally and figuratively haunted by the ghost of the her past.
- ❑ Despite her own efforts, Sethe is not truly freed from this ghost until her community comes together to exorcise it.



Her efforts to amend her past independently are insufficient.



Community plays a vital role in healing the wounds of the past (Franco 419).

- ❑ According to Fuchs, pressing issues that entangle society are due to the people that compose the society and their approach to resolving the issues, resulting in detriments to the individual and the community.
- ❑ “[I]t was not the fault of the dream. It was the fault of the dreamers” (Darnell & Ross, qtd in Fuchs 66).
- ❑ Sethe’s heart was not necessarily in the wrong place, but her individualistic approach was clearly inadequate.

## Works Cited

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